

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3, 5-8, 10, 12-15, 17, 19-22, 24 and 26-28 are pending in this application.

By this Amendment, claims 1, 8, 15 and 22 are amended. No new matter is added by the above amendment. In view of at least the following, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Applicant acknowledges the withdrawal of all prior grounds of rejection.

Accordingly, upon overcoming the newly presented §101 rejections for reasons discussed below, pending claims 1, 3, 5-8, 10, 12-15, 17, 19-22, 24 and 26-28 should be in condition for allowance.

I. Formal Matters

In the Office Action, the drawings are objected to for allegedly not illustrating all claimed features, such as the "input section" and calculating section." Applicant respectfully disagrees and traverses this objection.

Fig. 1 clearly shows distance calculating section 8, which is an example of the claimed "calculating section." Additionally, Figs. 1 and 2 show external storage apparatus 1 and 21, as well as keyboard 22, which are disclosed examples of an input section for inputting text sentences to the apparatus for semantic comparison (see pages 17-23, for example).

Accordingly, the alleged claim features are illustrated.

Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

II. Claim Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 101

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 3, 5-8, 10, 12-15, 17, 19-22, 24 and 26-28 under 35 U.S.C. § 101 for allegedly being directed to non-statutory subject matter by merely reciting an abstract idea or algorithm. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Although these claims are directed to comparison of text sentences and calculate a specific distance, the Examiner appears to be concerned that the rejected claims are just a

manipulation of a number without any specific claimed "useful, concrete, and tangible final result." The Examiner also alleges that the preamble language of text comparison is merely a field of use or intended use.

To address the Examiner's concerns, the independent method claims are amended to expressly recite a step of outputting the distance as an indicator of semantic similarity of the two sentences. This output may be onto the display 23 or stored in storage section 10 (memory), for example, as described on pages 17-23. Similarly, the independent apparatus claims are amended to expressly recite an output section that outputs the distance as an indicator of semantic similarity of the two sentences. This ties the claims to a practical application (text comparison) and achieves a "useful, concrete, and tangible result" (the output indication of semantic similarity). This is a real-world practical application where the data output is a useful, concrete, and tangible result consistent with the holdings in *State Street* and *Arrhythmia* cited in the Office Action and fully in compliance with 35 U.S.C. §101. Moreover, independent apparatus claims 15 and 22 add a computer-readable medium. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

The Office Action also rejects claims 1, 3, 5-8, 10, and 12-14 under 35 U.S.C. § 101 for allegedly not being directed to a statutory category by failing to be tied to a particular category or achieving transformation of the underlying subject matter. In particular, it is alleged that the recited method steps could be mental processes. Applicant respectfully disagrees. This rejection is accordingly respectfully traversed.

Nonetheless, to further prosecution, independent method claims 1 and 8 are revised to specify that the methods are "computer-implemented" methods, and thus not mental processes. Thus, the rejected method claims are now tied to a particular statutory category (apparatus) by recitation of a process performed by a computer, such as that shown in Applicant's Figs. 1-2 in accordance with the various illustrated flow charts.

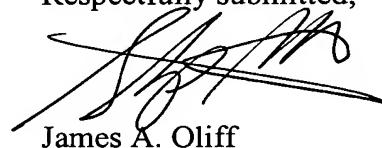
Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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